



**PAUL HIGA**  
Chief Probation Officer

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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September 21, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Paul Higa   
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOL FOR THE  
COMPATIBILITY OF ADULT PROBATION AND COUNTYWIDE  
WARRANTS SYSTEMS – FINAL STATUS REPORT**

On July 5, 2005, your Board requested my Department to report back within two weeks on: 1) the protocol that can be used to make the Probation Department's Adult Probation System (APS) and the Countywide Warrants System (CWS) compatible to produce an accurate number of warrants for persons on probation; and 2) the Department's action plan to address the issue. This is in follow-up to our initial status report of July 21, 2005.

**Implementation of Interim Manual Mechanism** – As indicated in our initial report, additional time was necessary to complete the process of working with the Sheriff and the Information Systems Advisory Body (ISAB), to specifically identify a mechanism to enable the matching of our APS active warrant data with the CWS data with significant accuracy.

We have now implemented an interim manual mechanism enabling the matching of such data. We have also learned that our active bench warrant file consisted of automated and manual records dating back to the 1950s. Consequently, a significant amount of these warrants, as indicated below, would no longer be serviceable, and thus, have become inactive. Specifically, the mechanism has enabled us to:

- ✓ Identify a total of 95,074 bench warrants, consisting of
  - 18,561 active warrants dating from 1974; and
  - 76,513 inactive warrants.
- ✓ Obtain data on the 18,561 active warrants which enables us to prioritize and triage our efforts to address these warrants. Based on our current staffing resources, our focus would be any sex or arson registration cases and violent or serious felonies.

**Identification of Mechanism to Proceed with Automated Interface** – As a result of our most recent meeting of September 6, 2005, we have now identified a long-term solution to implement an automated interface – Sheriff, ISAB, and Probation representatives concur that the best option is to utilize an existing information exchange mechanism under ISAB's purview, which allows criminal justice agencies to exchange information.

Since warrants are initiated by Superior Court's Trial Court Information System (TCIS), we will be able to capture the information directly from the TCIS system. We are proceeding with this approach which is consistent with the current and effective TCIS-to-CWS interface. Consequently, we are now examining data to determine which warrant information Probation will require to update APS via an automated interface using the existing ISAB information exchange. In addition, to verify the accuracy of the data, Probation will be using the same validation methodology for quality control that is in place with the TCIS-to-CWS interface. The TCIS-to-APS interface approach will ultimately enable Probation to simultaneously identify newly issued and old bench warrant pickups in an expeditious manner.

We are confident that an automated interface will be implemented by year-end. In the meantime, until such automation occurs, the Sheriff and Probation Departments will continue working together to manually provide the necessary information utilizing the CWS System.

**Additional Efforts to Enforce Warrants** – Prior to your Board's inquiries, Probation also believed the pursuit of warrants was a priority, and has taken a number of proactive measures to enforce warrants, including:

- ✓ Establishing a Bench Warrant Unit on July 1, 2005, to perform due diligence on all newly issued bench warrants, by attempting to locate probationers and return them to court for resolution of the warrant, or refer them to the Special Enforcement Office to be taken into custody. This unit is comprised of two (2) Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) who currently process approximately 100 warrants per week.
- ✓ Implementing an Adult Bench Warrants Enforcement Team (WET) on July 1, 2005, consisting of two (2) DPOs who specialize in enforcement. These officers conduct investigations to identify, search, and apprehend Adult Probationers who are not in compliance with court-ordered probation conditions and who are on active bench warrant status. Thus far, this Unit has successfully located and/or apprehended 19 of 34 (56%) defendants referred through this program -- we anticipate that these efforts will significantly reduce the number of unaccounted defendants and potentially increase the rate of compliance.



- ✓ Dedicating one DPO to the Los Angeles County 290 Task Force to work in partnership with the California Bureau of Investigations (CBI), Sexual Predator Apprehension Team (SPAT), and our Sheriff's Department – this Task Force's mission is to locate, monitor, investigate, and/or arrest sex offenders subject to registration pursuant to the law. Additionally, the Task Force partners have committed to assisting Probation in verifying addresses and conducting probation compliance checks of sex offenders placed on formal probation, and to assist in the location and arrest of probation sex registrants who are on active bench warrant status.
- ✓ Having our Developing Increased Safety through Arms Recovery Management (DISARM) teams also focus on enforcing warrants, amongst their primary function of confiscating weapons. Since January 2004, this unit's efforts have resulted in the apprehension of 493 probationers (53%) of the 922 that were sought on warrant status.
- ✓ Establishing the Suitable Placement AWOL Recovery (SPAR) team in January 2004, where amongst various other duties, 2 DPOs pursue minors with active bench warrants, AWOLs, and any other emergent situations involving the safety of our probation suitable placement youth. Since program inception, this effort has successfully apprehended 440 minors with warrants and/or AWOLs.

In addition, this will be our final status report unless otherwise instructed, or unanticipated issues arise, which impede us from meeting our target implementation of the TCIS-to-APS interface by year-end.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact David M. Davies, Chief, Adult Field and Special Services Bureaus, at (562) 940-2511.

PH:DD

AL:dn

c: Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff  
David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
John Ruegg, Director, Information Systems Advisory Body